

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8253

INFO USLO PEKING

UNCLAS HONG KONG 9505

FOR AGRICULTURE: APHIS: DR. SAULMON; FAS: MEEKER, HARTMAN
FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO SLAUGHTER PRC HOGS IN HONG KONG FOR EXPORT
TO U.S.

1. SUMMARY. US-LOCAL INTEREST HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN
POSSIBILITY OF SLAUGHTERING PRC HOGS IN HONG KONG FOR EXPORT
TO U.S. ALTHOUGH CONCEPT IS INTERESTING, RECORD OF FOOT AND
MOUTH DISEASE IN HONG KONG AND ASSUMED IN PRC APPEARS
SEVERELY LIMIT POSSIBILITIES. OFFICIAL USDA OPINION THUS
REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. AG OFFICER HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM LOCAL BUSINESSMAN
CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF GAINING ACCESS U.S. IMPORT MARKET
FOR CHILLED PORK FROM PRC-ORIGIN HOGS SLAUGHTERED IN HONG
KONG. IMPORTER WOULD BE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEUR WHO BELIEVES
THIS APPROACH MIGHT BE WAY OF SIDESTEPPING REQUIREMENT FOR
APPROVAL CHINESE INSPECTION SYSTEM AND INSPECTION PRC
SLAUGHTER FACILITIES.

3. AG OFFICER EXPRESSED UNOFFICIAL VIEW THAT POSSIBILITY
ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT HIGHLY UNLIKELY,
BUT AGREED TO REQUEST OPINION FROM USDA OFFICIALS. POINT-
ED OUT THAT IN ABSENCE CONCRETE INFORMATION TO CONTRARY.

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WE MUST ASSUME PRC HAS FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND THAT

SHIPMENT ANYTHING BUT PASTEURIZED PRODUCT (SUCH AS CANNED HAMS) WOULD PROBABLY BE OUT OF QUESTION. GAVE EXAMPLES OF ARGENTINA AND POLAND LIMITATIONS.

4. ALSO OUTLINED BASIC PRODECURES AND TIME REQUIRED TO GAIN USDA APPROVAL OF HONG KONG INSPECTION SYSTEM AND EXPORT ESTABLISHMENT. STRESSED AG OFFICER'S OPINION WAS NON-EXPERT, UNOFFICIAL; INTENDED ONLY AS PROVIDING STOP-GAP INFORMATION PENDING WASHINGTON REPLY.

5. SPECIFICALLY, QUESTION APPEARS REST ON WHETHER OR NOT ANY PERIOD OF QUOTE QUARANTINE UNQUOTE IN HONG KONG (E.G. 30 OR 60 DAYS) WOULD SANITIZE PRC HOGS TO POINT OF ACCEPTANCE, SHOULD ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF A HONG KONG INSPECTION PROGRAM BE WORKED OUT TO USDA'S SATISFACTION. QUESTION BELIEVED ACADEMIC BECAUSE HONG KONG ITSELF HAS, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER SWINE DISEASES, FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, THUS DISQUALIFYING HK CHILLED OR FROZEN PORK FROM ENTERING U.S.

6. COMMENT: AG OFFICER CONSIDERS INQUIRY INTERESTING PRIMARILY BECAUSE ANY SUCH WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT MIGHT PROVIDE BEGINNING, HOWEVER INDIRECT, OF CHINESE MEAT EXPORTS TO U.S. APHIS AND FAS ALREADY WELL AWARE STRONG INTEREST BOTH ON PART OF U.S. WOULD-BE IMPORTERS AS WELL AS ON PRC SIDE WHO DEPEND HEAVILY ON LIVE ANIMAL AND MEAT EXPORTS AS FOREIGN EXCHANGE SOURCE. WITH EXPERIENCE GAINED VIA HONG KONG, PRC MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE MORE WILLING ATTEMPT DIRECT APPROACH TO US MARKET WITH ALL THAT IMPLIES RE. PLANT INSPECTIONS WITHIN PRC. ONE OBVIOUS BENEFIT WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN CHINESE SIDE OF CURRENTLY HIGHLY UNBALANCED US-PRC AGRICULTURAL TRADE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE APHIS STATEMENT REGARDING POSSIBILITY OR IMPOSSIBILITY PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT. IF, UNDER EXISTING HK-PRC DISEASE SITUATION, CERTAIN TYPES OF PORK PRODUCT WOULD STILL BE PERMITTED ENTRY INTO US AFTER ALL INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS MET, ITEMIZATION OF SUCH PRODUCTS (E.G., COOKED CANNED HAMS, SMOKED SAUSAGE, OR WHATEVER) WOULD BE APPRECIATED HERE.

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